

The Farm Market Problem.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

A few days ago President Wilson signed the rural credits bill, and a plan to meet one of the greatest American agricultural problems was formally launched. There still remains another question which must be solved before American agriculture is really on a sound and logical business basis. There is an important bill, now in the committee stage of its life, designed to answer this second question by means of an official organization of all the 6,000,000 farmers in the United States.

The rural credits bill is designed to supply the farmer with money at a low rate of interest. It will put him in a position to develop his land properly and own it when it is developed. But the financial problem is only one of the farmer's problems. The problem of efficient production is another one, but in meeting this the farmer needs the assistance of the federal Department of Agriculture, perhaps the most efficient and efficient organization in the world for the study of problems of production. The farmer's third problem, however, brings up another story. It is the problem of marketing, of finding a buyer, and it is the consensus of opinion that in this respect America can do better than any other country. It is absolutely and as compared to other nations. The bill introduced into House and Senate proposes to remedy this state of affairs by the creation of a new and elaborate organization which will link every farmer with every other farmer and every buyer.

It is hardly worth while to cite cases from the sheaves available where the farmer has been sold at a loss.

Fancy Prices Paid for some articles of food while the farmer fifty miles away had the same article by the bushel rotting on the ground. The problem is being attacked from a dozen different sides by local organizations, by cities, counties and sometimes by states, but the evil to a greater or lesser degree still persists.

There is no blame to be attached to any particular class. The fault is seen to lie primarily with the system, and the system is wrong because it is blind and wasteful.

The situation may be summed up by saying that the consumer pays too much for farm products and the farmer gets too little for them. To lay the blame on the middlemen is an easy but erroneous way of placing the responsibility. The middlemen for the most part perform indispensable services, and as for their exorbitant profits, you do not see the corner grocer touring across the continent in his limousine. The real fault rests with a system that in the dark, that dumps potatoes on to a market already flooded with potatoes, that ships carrots to Philadelphia and turnips to Boston when Boston wants carrots and Philadelphia wants turnips. No one is arguing that the system is not wrong, and critics are agreed that what is lacking is a good system of reports by which the producer can find the best market of the moment, not in his county or his state, but in the United States of America. The California Fruit Growers' Association is often cited as an example of how an organization of this sort can function. The association may ship a car of oranges to Chicago. While the car is en route the Kansas news comes that oranges are off in Chicago and up in Cincinnati. The destination of the car is changed by telegraph. Instead of going to Chicago it goes to Cincinnati. The people of Cincinnati are glad to get the oranges at a price that they would have otherwise and the orange grower gets a better price for his fruit.

Something like this, but much broader and more comprehensive than this, is the goal set by our market reformers.

House and Senate propose a solution. The bill now before Congress, introduced in the Senate by Senator Sheppard and in the House by Mr. Goodwin, proposes to solve the problem in this manner:

It provides for the establishment of a national chamber of agriculture. This chamber is to consist of first of nine members appointed by the President, at least six of whom are to be farmers. The national chamber would be organized as a corporation in the District of Columbia, over which Congress has direct jurisdiction, and as such would operate in all the different states.

The real unit of the national chamber, however, as designed in the bill, would consist of the farmers of each individual township in the United States. When twenty farmers in a township should be organized, they would be granted a charter by the national chamber. Each member of the local chamber would have one vote, and each local organization is to have its own officers, and levy what fees and dues its constitution may provide.

When four or more townships in a given county have organized their local chamber, they are to get together and apply for a charter for a county chamber, which the national chamber will grant. This county chamber will in turn maintain as much of a state as it finds necessary and profitable. The county chamber is made up of delegates, elected one from each of the local chambers.

As soon as one-third of the counties in a single state have organized county chambers, they may apply for a charter for a state chamber, which the national chamber will grant. The state chamber is to be composed of one delegate from each county chamber, just as the county chamber is composed of one delegate from each township.

When twenty state chambers have organized state chambers, the national chamber will grant a charter for a national chamber, with all its state, county and township divisions and their respective staffs, actually doing the work. How do its designers intend it to function? Take a simple case.

John Stevens, a fruit grower, has seven barrels of apples for sale. He does not want to ship blindly to some nearby city, and he cannot read fifty market reports a day and continue to prune his apple trees. He tells the secretary of his township chamber about his apples and lets the matter drop from his mind.

One provision of the bill is that all units of the national chamber shall "provide for the employment of a card index, the telephone and the telegraph." The local secretary looks in the card index and sees if any of the township wants apples. Perhaps not. Very well. He refers them to the state secretary, who can, if necessary, turn to the national secretary, and by morning the whole of the United States of America has been canvassed to find a market for seven barrels of apples.

In this simplest of possible cases you have the scheme of the whole. The National Chamber of Agriculture is to get the farmer the best possible market by letting the whole country know what he has for sale, and by letting him know what every part of the country wants to buy. The law of supply and demand is to be permitted to function freely. While the arrangement would assure the farmer of the best market price, it should also protect the

consumer by relieving any local scarcity with its consequent inflation of prices.

The bill is based in large part on the investigations made by the American commission in Europe recently, and is approved by Mr. David Lubin, the American delegate to the International Institute of Agriculture. It is also endorsed by the National Association of Commissioners of Agriculture, a recent organization whose membership consists of the forty-eight state commissioners of agriculture, with Dr. Clarence J. Owens, who directed much of the work of the European investigation, as secretary.

The bill has been criticized for approaching the problem too exclusively from the producer's end, without sufficient regard for the convenience of the consumer, and also as not making sufficient use of state and local marketing organizations already existing, as well as of the bureau of markets in the Department of Agriculture. But while it may emerge from committee somewhat amended, it seems to have the vitality that assures that it will emerge, and come up for an early vote.

LITTLE STORIES FOR BEDTIME

BY THORNTON W. BURGESS.
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Drummer Hunts for Hollow Trees.

If Drummer the Woodpecker would find any hollow trees he didn't say anything about it. Probably he didn't think anything about it. You see he was so flattered by all the nice things Buster had said that he was as eager to hunt for those hollow trees and show Buster what he could do as Buster was to have him.

"How many hollow trees do you want me to find?" he asked. "And where shall I begin?"

"Begin right here and go in a straight line in that direction," said Buster, pointing in the direction in which he had seen Busy Bee disappear. "Find as many as you can."

"All right," replied Drummer, nodding his red head. "Here I go."

With this he flew to the next tree, and, beginning half way up, went round and round, all the time climbing higher and higher, and tapping with his stout bill. Rat-a-tat-tat! Rat-a-tat-tat! Rat-a-tat-tat! Drummer was so busy that he didn't notice when he reached the top he flew to



BUSTER WOULD SIT UP AND STARE AT WHERE DRUMMER WAS DRUMMING.

the next tree and did the same thing. It was surprising how rapidly he could examine each tree. Buster Bear followed him from below. They had gone some distance before Drummer found a tree that had a hollow in it. When he did find one he stopped to drum. Rat-a-tat-tat! Rat-a-tat-tat! Drummer's red head fairly flew as he beat his long roll.

"One," said he, looking down at Buster.

"Fine," replied Buster. "Now for another."

So Drummer went on from tree to tree. Every once in a while he found one with a hollow in it, and at the sound of his rat-a-tat-tat! Buster would sit up and stare at where Drummer was drumming, and in his face there would be a look of surprise.

When Drummer found a particularly nice sounding hollow he would stop to drum for his own pleasure, for you know the sound of his drumming is music to Drummer the Woodpecker. Buster Bear would get terribly impatient, but he took care to hide his impatience and pretended to enjoy the drumming.

So they went on farther and farther

into the Green Forest. Most of the hollows which Drummer found were empty. But time after time he would sit up with that eager look on his face and then as Drummer drummed that look would change to one of disappointment, and he would sigh as he waited for Drummer to go on to the next. Sammy Jay went along too. Of course, Sammy is smart. He knew that Buster had some particular reason for wanting to find hollow trees. He was looking for a new drum, and the look of disappointment which would follow after a minute or two.

"Buster wants to find one particular hollow," thought he, shrewdly. "Now I wonder why. It must be that Buster knows of something hidden in some hollow and wants it, but he doesn't know where that hollow is, and so he has got Drummer to find it for him. What can it be?"

Sammy scratched his head and thought and thought, but for the life of him he couldn't think of anything which he had ever found hidden in a hollow tree, which would be likely to interest Buster Bear. It made Sammy so curious that it was on the tip of his tongue to ask Buster what he was so anxious to find, but he wisely kept his tongue still and silently followed Drummer and Buster.

By and by they came to a great big hemlock tree. Half way between the trunk and the top of the tree there was a long gray streak on the trunk where there was no bark. Some time or other lightning had struck that big hemlock tree, and that long gray streak was dead wood where the lightning had struck. Drummer saw it at once and flew straight to it, for he knew that such places are quite likely to be hollow. Rat-a-tat-tat! Rat-a-tat-tat! The drumming stopped right in the middle, and in its place there was a faint humming that grew and grew, and it was a note of anger.

"Bees!" cried Drummer, and without waiting a second flew as hard as ever he could to a safe distance.

BALANCE OF WAR SCALES AT END OF SECOND YEAR

Official German Statement Shows Territory Occupied and Prisoners Taken.

BERLIN, August 4.—The German government has issued officially the figures relating to the conquests at the end of the second year of the war in a statement, which reads:

"The central powers, Bulgaria and Turkey captured 2,658,000 enemy soldiers, against 1,995,000. Of these taken prisoners by the Germans 5,947 officers and 348,000 men were French, 9,019 officers and 1,262,000 men were Russian and 947 officers and 20,000 men were British."

"The war booty brought to Germany, in addition to that utilized immediately at the front, comprised 11,036 cannon, 4,700,000 shells, 3,459 machine guns and 1,556,000 rifles."

"According to the list of statistics of German wounded soldiers 30.2 per cent returned to the front, 1.4 per cent died, the rest were unfit for service or were released. The military measures of the central powers, in consequence of epidemics, were never disturbed by epidemics."

The statement by Secretary Hester explained that of the total consumption 501,445 bales were liners, of which 395,000 bales were used for war material, or presumably for the manufacture of explosives. The great increase in the demand upon the south for war clothing is one of the reasons given for the large consumption figures.

The total commercial crop for the past year was stated by Secretary Hester as amounting to 12,935,256 bales.

Sues Capital Traction for \$5,000.

Harry C. Douglass today filed suit in the District Supreme Court to recover \$5,000 damages from the Capital Traction Company for alleged personal injury. Mr. Douglass says he had boarded a car near the Peace Monument April 8 last, and before he could leave the platform to enter the vehicle a rapid motion of the car around a curve threw him against a bar on the platform and caused him to sustain serious injury. He is represented by Attorneys W. H. Holloway and Thomas H. Patterson.

Lee Stalter committed suicide by hanging himself from a walnut tree in the yard at his home at Alpine, near Hancock, Md.

Rebuilding Operations at Alexandria and Other River Points.

Repair work to the Alexandria pier of the Norfolk and Washington Steamboat Company has been completed by Portch & Jones of this city, and the wharf building outfit used in the work was yesterday brought back to this city. The pier was considerably strengthened to carry the heavy freight that passes over and is stored on it.

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Clarke & Winston recently have completed the rebuilding of one corner of the Potomac and Chesapeake Steamboat Company's pier at Glymont-Indian Head, which was broken when rammed by a steamer landing at the wharf. New fender piles were also driven and other work done to put the wharf in the sound of his drumming is music to Drummer the Woodpecker.

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WELCOME TO COLLECT RELIEF FUNDS IN U. S.

British Government Denies Purpose to Interfere With Irish Success.

LONDON, August 4.—In reply to a question in the house of commons recently by Alfred Byrne, nationalist member for the harbor division of Dublin, as to whether any difficulty would be placed in the way of Irish members desiring to go to America to collect funds for the relief of dependents of persons shot on North King street, the Dublin rebellion and any application for a passport would be considered on its merits.

The home secretary said there was no desire to place any difficulty in the way of the collection of a fund for persons who had suffered through the Dublin rebellion and any application for a passport would be considered on its merits.

Answering a further question by Mr. Byrne as to why Thomas Hughes Kelly of New York, treasurer of the Irish relief fund, and his assistant, Joseph P. Smith, were not allowed to land from the steamer Philadelphia, the home secretary said:

"There is no objection to persons from America assisting in the administration of relief funds for Ireland and two individuals were admitted for this purpose. In the case of one of the men mentioned in the question whose ostensible object was as stated, permission was refused on the ground that he was engaged in business hostile to this country. The other man was so closely associated with him that he was also refused permission to land."

NEW HIGH RECORD FOR CONSUMPTION OF COTTON

Secretary Hester's Annual Statement at New Orleans Shows Marked Growth for Mills.

NEW ORLEANS, August 4.—Consumption of cotton by southern mills reached a new high record during the season ending with Monday, according to the annual statement by H. G. Hester, secretary of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, which has been made public. According to these statistics the mills of the south consumed during the twelve months ending with July 31 4,046,555 bales, approximately equaling the consumption in England during an ordinary year, and England always has been regarded as the most important cotton manufacturing section of the world.

Compared to last year, consumption in the south increased 83,167 bales, the greatest increase on record.

The previous record increase for any one year was 324,773 bales made during the season of 1911-1912.

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Garden Parasols

Regular \$3.00 Values
At \$1.00

A special purchase of 200 enables us to make this most remarkable offer. Japanese frames of bamboo ribs and sticks. They are very light, but strong and durable. The covers are of embroidered Japanese silk, in all the popular light colors. These were positively imported to sell at \$3.00. Your choice, while they last tomorrow, at \$1.00.

Main Floor—Lansburgh & Bro.

6500 SHIRTS AT 99c

Hundreds of Patterns and Color Combinations

WORTH UP TO \$1.50

Every Shirt Guaranteed Perfect in Fit and Fast Color

The Shirt Sale of such vital interest to late vacationists started today. Our Men's Shop was well patronized by the throngs who already knew of our wonderful shirt values. Every purchaser of today will be an advertiser for us for tomorrow's business.

Saturday Will Be a Record Breaker or We Miss Our Guess.

With the piece goods market being further drained each day of desirable merchandises and the therefore consequent rise in price of desirable shirtings, we feel it our duty to caution you to

Buy During This Sale and Buy Liberally

Surely you should buy during this sale and the diversity of patterns, colorings and fabrics offers wonderful opportunity of buying liberally without any semblance of duplication of style.

Look them over tomorrow—displayed on our Men's Shop Aisle Tables. **Every Shirt Perfect**; sizes, 13½ to 17. Choice of soft or laundered cuff models.

Main Floor—Direct Street Entrance to Men's Shop—Lansburgh & Bro.

Toilet Needs

For Vacationists or Stay-at-Homes

Cuticura Soap; 25c value 17c

Mennen's Talcum Powder; 15c value 11c

Kolynos Tooth Paste; 25c value 16c

Dr. Lyon's Tooth Paste; 25c value 13c

D. & R. Cold Cream; 50c value 39c

L. & B. Witch Hazel; 25c value 18c

Stillman's Freckle Cream; 50c value 35c

Packer's Tar Soap; 25c value 13c

Sanitol Tooth Paste or Powder; 25c value 15c

Main Floor—Lansburgh & Bro.

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Children's \$1.25 WHITE DRESSES At 95c

White Dresses of fine white lawn, French mode, neatly trimmed with lace and embroidery. Sizes, 2 to 6 years.

Children's Drawers of good quality muslin, finished with hemstitched hem and fine tucks; very special, at 25c.

Children's Rompers of fine gingham, madras, and chambray; "twanta" models in plain, colors and striped effects; sizes, 2 to 8 years; special at 50c.

Third Floor—Lansburgh & Bro.

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